

June 18, 2024: Chairman Brad Marcuson opened the regular meeting of the Decatur County Commission at 9:00 am with the flag salute on the second floor of the Courthouse with member Karen Larson. Also present was County Clerk Nora Urban and Oberlin Herald reporter Destry Jackson. Attorney Steve Hirsch and Commissioner Stan McEvoy were both out today. Joe Mondero, candidate for commissioner, was also sitting in.

9:00 Ernie Sheets, Road & Bridge came to update with the commissioners stating that they ran into trouble with a scrapper in Cook Township. He said looks like injector problems which they will not be able to do but they will save a little money by hauling it down to Foley for repair. He said repairs would be around \$7,000.

He then said they are mowing and blading and will start hauling gravel next week. He said he is not bringing anymore gravel in right now as they have a pretty good stockpile.

Commissioner Karen Larson asked about the roads, said she has not had as many complaints calls this week. He then said they have all been working trying to get roads in better shape and hopefully that will take care of things for now.

He said they do have a couple projects planned. One is replacing a bridge with a tube in Altory, and the other is elevating two miles in Roosevelt; however, he said the weather is calling for more rain.

Commissioner Brad Marcuson moved to allow the scrapper repairs. Karen gave the second. Brad called for the vote and the motion carried.

Ernie then said he is going to run an ad for someone at the landfill as the employee he has out there now is wanting to go to road crew instead. He said right now he is down 3 employees.

Nora Urban, County Clerk said that the abstract is done and submitted to the state. She explained it was a day late as there was an issue in Sheridan County and since they have shared values she could not move on until she got those values from them. Next, she will start working on the budgets, however, has still not got numbers from Mapes & Miller.

9:20 Diane Solko, Soil Conservation along with Justin Scott came to update with the commissioners and review their annual budget request. Justin started by saying that the state is considering matching local funds, however only if local funds are increased. Diane said there were some legislative items that did not pass however they are getting a few additional funds than before. Justin reviewed the proposed 2025 budget, requesting \$25,000 again this year. They then discussed projects and plans that have either already happened or that are in the works. There is a new Pheasants Forever person in the office, Jessica Butters, and they have approved another new greenhouse.

9:40 Andrea Cross, Options was next to meet with the commissioners. She started by going over stats for the district as well as locally. They provide services to the 18 northwest Kansas counties. Decatur sexual assault stats were: 0 sexual assaults reported, 0 arrest and 44 services for survivors and 33 exams in Hays with 1 protection from stalking order. Decatur domestic violence stats were: 9 domestic violence reports, 5 arrests, 160 services provided for survivors, 6.25 hours of safety planning, 2 hours of crisis intervention and provided 1 night of safe shelter. Andrea continued that they were awarded a large grant to establish a new facility that would combine the shelter and offices into one allowing for more space. They were also awarded a tax credit to build in Colby, adding onto what is already there. She explained they still have 24-7 access as well as their website where you can access information as well as chat with someone or make a report. They also have a mobile app, and she also discussed some new programs.

9:59 Karen moved for a 5-minute executive session for non-elected personnel. Brad gave the second, called for the vote and the motion carried. Those present were the two commissioners and Nora.
10:04 No action was taken.

Megan Huntley, EMS along with Chris Koerperich came to see the commissioners. Karen said they were going to have an executive with Megan, Chris left.

10:10 Brad moved for a 15-minute executive session for non-elected personnel. Karen gave the second. Brad called for the vote and the motion carried. Those present were the two commissioners, Nora and Megan.

10:25 Karen moved to extend the session by 10 minutes. Brad gave the second, called for the vote and the motion carried. The same people were present.

10:35 No action was taken.

Karen reported on the hospital board meeting starting with the Robyn Edgett memorial golf tournament will be July 20th. They are hoping to use the funds to purchase a pyxis medical cabinet. The new roof is done on the building and there are no leaks. The new windows are in and ready to be installed and Wheatridge will be getting new siding with insurance funds from the storm. They have 62 days of cash on hand, sports physicals are taking place, and they have a new PA. May stats: 44 ER patients, 5 transfers, 8 acute, 2 swing bed, 100 specialty clinic patients, 354 outpatients, and 6 procedures. She also had financial reports to review. Karen then said they have a new fund set up for doctor recruitment. Next, she said they discussed sepsis and the seriousness of it and reported that Decatur has zero sepsis. Last, she said that they will continue to work with Derek Chambers.

Brad reported that there have been a couple of incidents at the ball fields with summer rec. However they have been addressed and handled, no further action is necessary.

Joe asked the commissioners who makes the decisions regarding policies for summer rec. It was explained that there is the summer rec board and directors that handle the day-to-day activities however anything above and beyond that is up to the commissioners to decide or handle.

He then asked about incentive plans for Decatur County businesses. Nora explained the NRP program, EDC hiring incentive, and ROZ program.

11:00 Brad adjourned the meeting.

MINUTES APPROVED: _____

Brad, *KL*, *Sam*

ATTEST: _____

Nora Urban

, County Clerk

DATE: _____

6/25/24